



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER

A Division of the National Safety Council
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6974 '99 MAY -7 P12:42

May 5, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852.

RE: Docket #98N-1038
Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Christine Hoch, and I work for the Environmental Health Center of the National Safety Council. I would like to share my comments on 1) whether labeling of irradiated foods should remain; and, 2) if so, what kind of label.

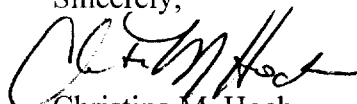
I think irradiated food needs prominent labeling. The label should include the use of the terms "irradiation" or "irradiated" and the use of the radura symbol.

The proposed alternative terms such as "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" are misleading and should not be used. The absence of a statement would be misleading because irradiation destroys vitamins and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

I deem labels very important when shopping. I think all consumers should have the right to know about the characteristics of the food to be consumed in their bodies. When shoppers have full information, they are better able to meet the needs of their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,



Christine M. Hoch

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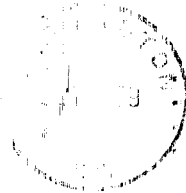
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